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Printing and the Renaissance World

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PRINTING *and the* RENAISSANCE WORLD

*an exhibition of
manuscripts and early books
from Thomas Cooper Library*



J. C. ANDERSON LIBRARY
University of South Carolina
at Sumter * May 18-June 19, 2003

This exhibition illustrates the development and impact of printing, from Johann Gutenberg's invention of moveable type in Germany in the mid-fifteenth-century, through its effects for the Renaissance in classical learning, for the Reformation in religion, for science and geography during the age of exploration, and (more briefly) for illustration, science, and literature.

Among the items on display are an illuminated medieval manuscript codex or book from c. 1420; an early printed book from 1483, with hand-colored initials, and its original wooden binding; a wood-engraving by the German artist Albrecht Durer; a leaf from the 1611 first edition of the King James Bible; and the 1625 English edition of Leo Africanus's account of the African city of Timbuktu.

The items displayed are all drawn from the collections in the Department of Rare Books & Special Collections, Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina.

Case 1: INTRODUCTION

- * **Manuscript leaf**, from a Psalter, Germany, late 15th century (Egge 42).
- * Albertus Magnus, *Liber de muliere forti*. Cologne: Heinrich Quentell, 1499.
- * Krantz, Albert, *Wandalia*. Coloniae Agrippinae: Soter, 1519.

Case 2: BEFORE PRINTING

- * A leaf from the *Missale Bellovacense*. France, late 13th century.
- * *Psalterium Anglicanum*, manuscript codex, England, early 15th century.
- * A leaf from *Missale Lemovicense Castr-ense*, France, mid-15th century.

Case 3: CHAUCER

* Three facsimile gatherings from the Ellesmere Manuscript, c. 1405: the Prologue, the Knight, and the Miller.

Cases 4 & 5: INCUNABULA

* Jordan von Quedlinburg, *Opus postillarum*. Strasbourg: Husner, 1483. Half calf over wooden boards.

* Duns Scotus, *Quaestiones*, Venice: Herbort, 1481. Tooled calf.

* Badius, Josse, 1462-1535, ed. *Illustrium virorum epistole*. Lyons: Wolff for Koberger, 1499.

Case 6: THE DEVELOPMENT OF TYPOGRAPHY

* Gothic: A leaf from *Nova Legenda Angliae*, London: Wynkyn de Worde, 1516.

* Roman: A leaf from *Iamblichus de Mysteriis Aegyptiorum*, Venice: Aldus Manutius & Torresano, 1516.

* Italic: Pliny the Younger, *Epistularu libri decem*. Venice: Aldus Manutius, 1518.

* Silius Italicus, *de Bello Punico secundo XVII libri*. Venice: Aldus Manutius, 1523. Vellum.

Case 7: EARLY BOOK ILLUSTRATION

Original leaves from:

* H. Schedel, *Liber chronicarum*.

Nuremberg: Koberger, 1493.

—the “Nuremberg Chronicle.”

* Sebastian Brant, *Stultifera Navis*. Basle: von Olpe, 1498.

—from designs by Albrecht Durer.

* Johann von Cube, *Hortus Sanitatis*, Strassburg: Beck, 1517.

Case 8: THE RENAISSANCE BIBLE

Original leaves from:

- * the Hebrew text, Paris: Robert Estienne, 1544.
- * the vernacular Bible: "Matthew's Bible," 4th ed., London, 1551.
- * the Authorized Version or King James Bible: *The Holy Bible . . . Appointed to be Read in Churches*, London: Robert Barker, 1611.

Case 9: RENAISSANCE GEOGRAPHY

- * Ptolemy, *Theatrum geographiae veteris*. Leyden: I. Elzevir, 1618.

Case 10: RENAISSANCE TRAVELERS

- * Jacob Hondius's map of the Christian World, from *Purchase his Pilgrimes* (1625).
- * Constantinople: a leaf from George Sandys, *Travels*. London, 1615.
- * Port Royal [South Carolina]: a leaf from Jean Le Moyne, *Brevis narratio . . . in Florida*, Frankfurt: de Bry, 1591.

Case 11: LEO AFRICANUS

- * Jacob Hondius's map of Africa, from *Purchase his Pilgrimes* (1625).
- * Leo Africanus, ca. 1492-ca. 1550, *Africae descriptio IX. lib.* Leyden: Elzevir, 1632.
- * Leo Africanus describes Timbuktu, from Samuel Purchas, ed., *Hakluytus posthumus or Purchas his Pilgrimes*. 4 vols. London: Stansby, 1625.

Case 12: RENAISSANCE LITERATURE

- * A leaf from Vergil, *Aeneis*. Lyons: Jacobus Sacon, 1517.
- * A leaf from William Shakespeare, *Comedies, Histories and Tragedies*. London:

Herringman, 1685.
—the “Fourth Folio.”

Wall Display: THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRINTING

Reproductions to illustrate the operation of a Renaissance printing house.

* **Manuscript leaf** from a Missal (service book), Limoges, France, XVth century.

* **Geoffrey Chaucer** from the Ellesmere manuscript

* **Johann Gutenberg and the first printed book**, from *Biblia sacra*, Mainz: Gutenberg, Fust, & Schoeffer, c.1455-56.

* **The first great illustrated book: the Nuremberg Chronicle**, from Schedel, *Liber chronicarum*, Nuremberg: Koberger, 1493.

* **The earliest picture of a printing press**: woodcut printer’s mark of Jodocus Badius Ascensius (1462-1535).

* **Four Specialist Trades in Renaissance Book Production**: woodcuts of the illustrator, the typesetter, the vellum maker, and bookbinders, from Sachs, *Eygentliche beschreibung* (1568).

* **The Renaissance Printing House, I**: from Johann and Phillip de Straet [Stradanus], *Nova Reperta*, c. 1600.

* **The Renaissance Printing House, II: Printing and Papermaking**: two pages from Comenius, *Orbis Sensualium Pictus* (1659).

* **The First Printed Edition of Chaucer**: from William Caxton’s quarto edition (London, 1485).

* **The Renaissance Printing Shop, III**: from engraving by Abraham von Werdt, 1639.

RARE BOOKS AT THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY

The Department of Rare Books & Special Collections, located on the mezzanine level of Thomas Cooper Library, has major collections in natural history (notably Audubon, Darwin), history, literature (Burns, Emerson, Fitzgerald, Hemingway), children's literature, and the history of the book. Regular major exhibitions from the rare book collections are displayed in the mezzanine gallery. The Graniteville Reading Room is open for research consultation Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., except major holidays. For more information, contact 803-777-8154.

RARE BOOKS ON THE WEB

Thomas Cooper Library's Rare Books & Special Collections web-pages include two sites featuring items from this exhibition:

- * "Printing, Renaissance & Reformation"
- * "Exploring Africa"

Both sites, along with information on the library's other special collections, can be accessed from the department's home-page at www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/rarebook.html

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